(b) whether FCI allows exporters to pick up extra rice to improve consignment quality and whether exporters misused contracts specifying 5 per cent brokens to buy more subsidised rice from Government and sell it off in the domestic market at a hefty premium; and

(c) whether Government would consider banning and sale of subsidised rice in the local market and also refuse to sell extra rice for quality upgradation by exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) Government is not aware of any such instance regarding non-performance of contractual obligations. The exporters are required to export the same quality of rice that is lifted from the Central Pool stocks. Presently, export documents are required to be submitted for 98% of the quantity lifted as only 2% allowance is given for operational losses.

Surplus foodgrains with FCI

923. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the surplus stock of foodgrains lying in FCI warehouses in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have taken any measures to make fresh procurement of foodgrains and its proper storage;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the quantum of foodgrains exported during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) The stock of foodgrains exceeding the prescribed buffer stocking norms of foodgrains as on a particular Quarter of a Year, is considered surplus stock in the Central Pool. Buffer stocking norms of foodgrains are prescribed for the country as a whole and not state-wise.

The stock of foodgains in the Central Pool as on 1.10.2002 was 514.10 lakh tonnes as against the prescribed minimum buffer norms of 181.00 lakh tonnes resulting 333.10 lakh tonnes of excess stock.

(b) to (d) Under the price support scheme, the Government is committed to procure all the foodgrains conforming to prescribed specifications offered for sale at specified centres. Procurement operations are carried out throughout the country for each Rabi/Kharif Marketing Season. During the current Kharif Marketing Season 2002-2003 which has commenced on 1.10.2002, 83.83 lakh tonnes in terms of rice has already been procured.

State Warehousing Corporation (SWC) and the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) have been requested to create additional storage capacity to the extent of 89.77 lakh tonnes under the 7 year guarantee scheme in the major procuring States. This additional capacity is under creation since 2000-01.

(e) The total quantum of rice and wheat export, during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 (upto October, 2002) is as under:—

(figures in lakh tonnes)

Year	Wheat	Rice
2000-2001	18.69	—
2001-2002	39.52	19.85
2002-2003 (upto Oct., 2002)	38.98	46.47

(Provisional)

Enforcement of quality regulations on unsafe foreign goods

924. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consumer Education and Research Centre has urged the Central Government to enforce stringent quality regulations on sub-standard, unsafe foreign consumer products;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;